

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US-JAPAN ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS ON LATIN AMERICA

REF: STATE 212939

EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT FOLLOWING ITEMS BE RAISED BY US
UNDER AGENDA ITEM CONCERNING BRAZIL:

A. JAPANESE-BRAZILIAN ECONOMIC MEETINGS. WE
UNDERSTAND THAT BRAZIL AND JAPAN ARE EXCHANGING ECONOMIC
MISSIONS SIMILAR TO THE ANNUAL US-BRAZIL PRIVATE
SECTOR MEETINGS, EXCEPT THAT THE BRAZIL DELEGATION TO
JAPAN INCLUDES GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES. IT WOULD BE
INTERESTING TO HEAR HOW THESE MEETINGS ARE WORKING OUT AND
WHAT ROLE THE GOJ PLAYS.

2. JAPANESE INVESTMENT PROBLEMS. JAPAN HAS COMPLAINED
ABOUT BRAZIL'S DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT
AND GOVERNMENT FINANCING OF PROCUREMENT FROM FOREIGN-OWNED
FIRMS. WE SHOULD ASK THE JAPANESE HOW THEY EVALUATE
BRAZIL'S CURRENT POLICIES IN THIS AREA.

3. TUBARAO. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO GET A BRIEFING
FROM THE JAPANESE SIDE ABOUT CURRENT PROBLEMS REGARDING
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PLANS FOR THIS HUGE STEEL PROJECT IN WHICH KAWASAKI
STEEL AND FINSIDER ARE PARTNERS AND FOR WHICH THE GOJ
HAS PROMISED TO BUILD A SPECIAL PORT TO FACILITATE
EXPORTS. THE GOJ SEEMS TO HAVE REMAINED ALOOF FROM
THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PRIVATE COMPANIES AND
THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT AND HAS MADE NO MOVE ON THE
PORT PROJECT. THE JAPANESE SIDE MIGHT ALSO BE ASKED

TO SUMMARIZE INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER MAJOR NEW INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS.

4. SHIPBUILDING. THE BRAZILIAN SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY IS GROWING. DOES THE GOJ BELIEVE BRAZIL HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME ANOTHER JAPAN IN THIS FIELD?

5. JAPANESE REPRESENTATION IN BRAZIL. THE GOJ SHOULD BE ASKED ABOUT ITS PLANS FOR DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR REPRESENTATION IN BRAZIL WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO ASSIGNMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL OFFICERS.

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